

Claims

- [c1] 1. A safety vest, comprising: a vest sized to be worn by a human, the vest having a front and back and left and right sides each having a shoulder portion; a continuous EL element on each side of the vest extending from the front to the back over the shoulder portion; a rechargeable power source supported by the vest and connected to the EL lamp elements to supply electrical energy to the elements so that they emit EL light; and wherein the EL light emitted by the EL elements is a safety yellow color, and wherein other portions of the vest are a safety orange color.
- [c2] 2. An article adapted to be worn by a human and comprising an EL light source supported on the article and a rechargeable power source supported by the article and connected to the EL light source to supply electrical energy to emit EL light, wherein the EL light emitted by the EL light source is a safety yellow color, and wherein other portions of the article are a safety orange color.
- [c3] 3. A safety vest, comprising: a vest sized to be worn by a human, the vest having a front and back and left and right sides each having a shoulder portion; an EL element on each side of the vest extending from the bottom of the vest upwards toward the shoulder portion; a rechargeable power source supported by the vest and connected to the EL lamp elements to supply electrical energy to the elements so that they emit EL light; and wherein the EL light emitted by the EL element is a safety yellow color, and wherein other portions of the vest are a safety orange color.
- [c4] 4. An article of safety clothing adapted for wearing on a torso portion of a human, comprising: a single EL strip located on a portion of the clothing; a power source

connected to one end of the EL strip; and at least one transition portion in the EL strip, allowing the single EL strip to form a pattern using directional changes.

- [c5] 5. The article of safety clothing of claim 4, wherein the transitional portion includes a 180 degree turn.
- [c6] 6. The article of safety clothing of claim 4, wherein the transitional portion includes a 90 degree turn.
- [c7] 7. The article of safety clothing of claim 4, wherein the single EL strip includes a plurality of EL lamp portions attached to a flexible circuit conductor strip.
- [c8] 8. A method of illuminating a human, comprising: attaching at least one EL element to an article of clothing; connecting a power source to the EL element; and illuminating the EL element while wearing the article of clothing.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 8, wherein attaching at least one EL element to an article of clothing includes attaching at least one EL element to locations of the article of clothing that do not shine into a user's face.
- [c10] The method of claim 8, wherein attaching at least one EL element to an article of clothing includes attaching at least one EL element to locations of the article of clothing that appear on at least a portion of a side of a user.
- [c11] 11. A safety hat, comprising: a hat main body; a safety element adhered to the hat main body, the safety element comprising a safety symbol; and EL lighting that illuminates the safety element.
- [c12] 12. The safety hat of claim 11, wherein the symbol is selected from the group consisting of a warning symbol, a stop symbol, a caution symbol and a yield symbol.

- [c13] The safety hat of claim 11 wherein the hat main body comprises a flexible material.
- [c14] The safety hat of claim 11 wherein the hat main body comprises a rigid, hard, hat material.
- [c15] A method for fighting fires, comprising: wearing a safety hat comprising a main body and a safety element adhered to the main body, the safety element comprising a safety symbol and EL lighting that illuminates the safety symbol.
- [c16] 16. A life jacket, comprising: a main body life jacket sized to be worn by a human or animal, the life jacket having a front and back and left and right sides each having a shoulder portion; a continuous EL element on each side of the main body jacket extending from the front to the back over the shoulder portion wherein at least a portion of the EL element is waterproofed; a waterproofed rechargeable power source supported by the life jacket and connected to the EL lamp elements to supply electrical energy to the elements so that they emit EL light; and wherein the EL light emitted by the EL elements is a first safety color, and optionally, wherein other portions of the life jacket are a second safety color.
- [c17] 17. An article of clothing, comprising: a wearable form and EL lighting positioned on the wearable form, the EL lighting illuminating a portion of the wearable form.
- [c18] The article of claim 17 wherein the wearable form includes pants and the EL lighting is positioned on one or more legs of the pants.
- [c19] The article of claim 17 wherein the wearable form includes a shirt.
- [c20] The article of claim 17 wherein the wearable form includes a jacket or coat.
- [c21] The article of claim 17 wherein the wearable form includes a collar.